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PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Kuznetsov et al.

) Group Art Unit 3651

Appl. No. : 10/009,851

Filed : November 6, 2001

For : METHOD FOR  
TRANSFERRING WAFERS  
AND RING

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) 22313-1450, on

) September 15, 2003

(Date)

) Adeel S. Akhtar

Adeel S. Akhtar, Reg. No. 41,394

Examiner : Joseph A. Dillon, Jr.

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT  
AND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Dear Sir:

In an action mailed July 15, 2003, the Examiner required restriction of prosecution to one of three groups of claims.

**A Response to the Restriction Requirement** begins on page 2 of this paper.

In addition, prior to examination on the merits, please amend the subject application as indicated below.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 3 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.

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**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

In an action mailed July 15, 2003, the Examiner required restriction of prosecution to one of the following groups of claims:

- Group I        Claims 22-33 and 47, drawn to a method of loading/unloading a chamber;
- Group II       Claims 34-41, drawn to a thermal treatment chamber;
- Group III      Claims 42-43, drawn to an installation/ring combination; or
- Group IV      Claims 44-46, drawn to a ring mount.

In response to this restriction requirement, Applicants elect to proceed, with traverse (see below), with prosecution on the merits of Group II (Claims 34-41).

Applicants respectfully request that Claims 42-43 also be considered with Claims 34-41. The Examiner has stated that Claims 34-41 are “drawn to a thermal treatment *chamber*” and that Claims 42-43 are “drawn to an installation/*ring* combination.” (emphasis added). Applicants note, however, that both independent Claims 34 and 42 recite both a “treatment chamber” and a “ring.” As such, Applicants submit that searches regarding Claims 34-41 would overlap searches regarding Claims 42-43. Given this overlap, Applicants respectfully submit that prosecution of Claims 34-41 and Claims 42-43 together would not present an undue burden for examination, despite any patentable differences between these two groups of claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request submit that Claims 42-43 should be considered together with Claims 34-41 in this prosecution.

Also, Applicants submit that new Claim 48 also overlaps Group II and requests that Claim 47 be considered with Claims 34-41.